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(*b*) whether each sweet toddy-drawer is permitted to draw fermented toddy provided he pays tree-tax; if so, from how many trees each sweet toddy-drawer is permitted to tap fermented toddy; and

(*c*) how many toddy-drawers were licensed to tap sweet toddy in Peddapur, Cocanada, Rajahmundry, Amalapur and Razole taluks in the East Godavari district, and in the Ellore, Chintalapudi, Tadepalligudem, Bhimavaram, Tanuku, Narsapur and Kovvur taluks in the West Godavari district in each of the years 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932 and how many of them in each of the said taluks have paid tree-tax to draw fermented toddy?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes; each sweet toddy-tapper is allowed to tap three trees for the drawing of fermented toddy for his own bona fide domestic consumption but not for sale.

(*c*) The Government have not the information but have called for a report.

Mr. G. SRIRAMULU:—" Will the Government be pleased to place the report on the table of the House after it is received?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" Yes; if the question is repeated by the hon. Member."

Sweet toddy-tapping in the West Godavari district.

* 26 *Q.*—Mr. G. SRIRAMULU: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) in how many villages in the upland area of each of the taluks—Ellore, Kovvur and Tadepalligudem—in the West Godavari district there is sweet toddy-tapping in the year 1933;

(*b*) what the upland villages comprised within the jurisdiction of each of the Excise Sub-Inspectors of Ellore, Tadepalligudem, Nidadavole and Kovvur are in which there was sweet toddy-drawing in the year 1933;

(*c*) the number of licences granted to draw sweet toddy in each of the villages mentioned in clause (*b*) and also the number of sweet toddy-drawers who paid tree-tax to tap fermented toddy from concession trees in each of such villages in the year 1933;

(*d*) whether there were any petitions of bribe-taking filed against the Inspectors or Sub-Inspectors of Excise in the West Godavari district in the year 1933, and if so, how many and against whom were they filed;

(*e*) whether the petitions were filed by sweet toddy-drawers or toddy shop renters or by both; how many of each class have been filed; and

(*f*) what became of the petitions; whether they were enquired into; if so, how many were enquired into and what the result is of the enquiry?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*c*) The Government have not the information but have called for a report,

(*d*) Yes; six petitions, besides a letter from the hon. Member himself were received by the Government in which allegations were made that certain Excise officers were taking bribes.

(*e*) Four petitions purported to be from sweet toddy-drawers and two from toddy shop renters.

(*f*) Two petitions were forwarded to the Commissioner of Excise for disposal. The remaining four petitions and the letter from the hon. Member have been sent to the Commissioner for enquiry and report. The Commissioner's report is awaited.

Mr. G. SRIRAMULU:—"Will the hon. Minister be pleased to place on the table of the House the report after it is received?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"The same answer as for the supplementary question to the previous question."

Revenue under sale of toddy shops in the East and West Godavari districts.

* 27 *Q.*—Mr. G. SRIRAMULU: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to place on the table of the House the statistics of income to the Government by the sale of toddy shops and also by the payment of tree-tax by the sweet toddy-drawers in each of the years 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932 and 1933 in each of the East and West Godavari districts?

A.—The Government have not the statistics but have called for them.

Mr. G. SRIRAMULU:—"Will the Government be pleased to place the report on the table of the House as soon as it is received?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Yes."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Will the hon. the Minister for Excise consider the need for increasing and making tree tax, etc., uniform for the whole Presidency?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"The question has been considered more than once, even quite recently, on account of some observations made on the floor of this House. We examined it and we have not found it possible to do so."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I ask whether there is any policy with regard to the question of prohibition or temperance?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Yes."

Restrictions on the drawing of sweet toddy.

* 28 *Q.*—Mr. G. SRIRAMULU: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that sweet toddy-drawers were formerly permitted to draw sweet toddy throughout the year;